





America's Great Outdoors: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), launched the second year of *America's Great Outdoors: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists* program in late 2012 to support the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). The goal of the program is to support organizations that are developing innovative conservation job opportunities for youth which expose young people, particularly urban and minority youth, to the natural world and career opportunities available in conservation.

In total, the \$1,275,000 in federal funds (\$1 million BLM, \$275,000 Reclamation) will be leveraged into more than \$4 million to support 22 youth conservation employment projects in the western United States. This funding includes \$275,000 in non-federal funds from Wells Fargo. These projects will expose more than 600 youth to employment opportunities benefiting our public lands. An additional 1,000 volunteer opportunities will be established as part of these projects.

BLM-BOR CO-SPONSORED PROJECTS

Corps of Recovery - Youth Conserving Lewis & Clark's Montana	BLM Funds:	\$80,000
(MT)	BOR Funds:	\$20,000
Montana Conservation Corps	Matching Funds:	\$174,642
NFWF Project #: 38584	Total Project Funds:	\$274,642

Project Description: The Montana Conservation Corps will partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and receive support from the World Wildlife Fund and others to restore and enhance habitat at multiple priority sites that mirror Lewis and Clark's 1805 journey in Montana and include the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument. Youth from urban communities, Indian reservations, and small Montana towns will be exposed to career opportunities in conservation and complete 8,000 hours of conservation activities to benefit wildlife. Training and education will be provided through this project which will engage 100 youth in hands-on projects that include fence modification and salvage, invasive Russian olive and tamarisk eradication, invasive weed removal and native plant re-seeding, road de-commissioning, installation of large instream woody debris, and tree and shrub planting to re-vegetate degraded riparian habitat.

Project Location: State-wide in Montana along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, their tributaries, and adjacent lands.

Arizona Youth Conservation Engagement Pathway Pilot Project	BLM Funds:	\$70,000
(AZ)	BOR Funds:	\$10,000
Gila Watershed Partnership	Matching Funds:	\$227,338
NFWF Project #: 38256	Total Project Funds:	\$307,338

Project Description: The Gila Watershed Partnership, in collaboration with Friends of the Verde River Greenway and Ironwood Tree Experience, will develop an innovative pilot project called the "Arizona Youth Conservation Engagement Pathway Pilot Project". This pathway will begin early in high school, continue through community college, and include experiential activities, training and participation in youth conservation corps programs. An educational curriculum and training modules to engage youth in natural resource opportunities with public land agencies will be produced, field tested with partnering agencies and other organizations, and made available statewide for adaptation to existing youth environmental or conservation programs. A culminating youth work summit will be held to identify opportunities for conservation careers, internships, or service options at federal agencies and organizations. Through this project, 75 high school students will receive a one-day orientation and a minimum two-day hands-on conservation activity on public lands in the Verde River area and a youth crew will be employed on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property along the Gila River.

Project Location: The project leaders are located in Safford, Tucson, and Cottonwood, and the pilot project will cover the whole state of Arizona.

Engaging Youth as Land Stewards (CA)	BLM Funds:	\$55,000
The Student Conservation Association, Inc.	BOR Funds:	\$12,500
NFWF Project #: 38497	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$25,000
	Matching Funds:	\$192,500
	Total Project Funds:	\$285,000

Project Description: The Student Conservation Association, Inc. (SCA) will provide stipends to six conservation crews working thoughout the state to improve wildlife habitat in California. Through this project, 42 youth will receive work skills and career training and 10 young adults will be employed as crew leaders. The crews will be mentored by field staff from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and SCA while working on lands of high conservation value: King Range Conservation Area, Lacks Creek Management Area, Mike Thompson Wildlife Area, South Spit of Humboldt Bay, Headwaters Reserve, Tunnison Mountain, Skedaddle, Bodie Hills WSAs, and Travertine Hot Springs ACEC. Crews will utilize recognized Best Management Practices to remove invasive plant species, rehabilitate designated wilderness lands damaged by illegal off-road vehicle use, maintain and enhance riparian areas, construct new trails, maintain existing trails, control erosion and protect water quality. Vegetation types that will benefit are: coastal prairies, anadromous fish streams, old growth redwood, coastal sand dunes, wetlands, sage/juniper steppe, wet meadows, big and low sagebrush, riparian, springs, aspen, and oak woodlands. The improved habitat will benefit various salmonids, raptors and ungulate species.

Project Location: This project will take place at and near Bureau of Land Management field offices in Arcata, Bishop, Eagle Lake, and Susanville, and the Bureau of Reclamation Lake Berryessa field office.

BLM SPONSORED PROJECTS

Wind Mountain Stewardship Project (NM)	BLM Funds:	\$39,720
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Matching Funds:	\$40,000
NFWF Project #: 37813	Total Project Funds:	\$79,720

Project Description: The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will partner with New Mexico State Land Office, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMGF), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to restore Wind Mountain area mule deer habitat while providing job training and education to eight northern New Mexico low income and tribal youth over a 48 day period. The conservation crew will use chain saws to thin juniper and pinon pine from a 33 acre parcel of state land and create 3,800 feet of enclosures to stimulate aspen regeneration. Ten volunteers from New Mexico Highlands University will assist in monitoring outcomes by collecting quantitative data both pre- and post- treatment. NMGF will provide consultation for forest prescriptions and project oversight. Youth engaged in the project will gain valuable skills in conservation, job skills, and have the opportunity to work side by side with public land management officials. Ultimately, the skills, education, contacts and AmeriCorps educational awards to be gained through this project will foster career pathways for northern New Mexico youth.

Project Location: The project treatment area is within the New Mexico State Land Office property approximately 17 miles northwest of Taos.

Twin Falls District Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration (ID)	BLM Funds:	\$35,000
Bureau of Land Management, Twin Falls District	Matching Funds:	\$37,368
NFWF Project #: 38083	Total Project Funds:	\$72,368

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Twin Falls District, will conduct habitat restoration throughout the District on areas burned by wildfires in 2011 and 2012 to benefit the sage-grouse, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and other wildlife dependent on sagebrush-steppe habitats. Youth volunteers from communities in south-central Idaho will work with BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) biologists and ecologists to implement shrub planting and seed collection projects and will have the opportunity to learn about species biology and ecology, as well as the importance of habitat conservation and restoration. The project activities will foster an appreciation for wildlife, the outdoors, and public lands management and will directly benefit sage-grouse, other sagebrush-steppe species and mule deer. The project will purchase 50,000 locally-raised sage brush and bitterbrush seedlings and provide logistical support and chartered bus transport to planting locations. Over 12 planting days a year and 2 seed collection days in spring and fall, 400 high school students and other volunteers will work to restore the burned areas. An existing and established long-term volunteer program at the IDFG's Magic Valley Regional Office has provided past support to the BLM and IDFG for important restoration projects.

Project Location: The project area is located in the Twin Falls District of south-central Idaho and will focus on areas burned in 2011 and 2012 and potential seed collection throughout the District.

Hat Creek Youth Initiative (CA)BLM Funds:\$86,750California TroutMatching Funds:\$447,274NFWF Project #: 38190Total Project Funds:\$534,024

Project Description: California Trout will launch its Hat Creek Youth Initiative (HCYI), developed by California Trout and supported by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alturas Field Office, to provide meaningful natural resource mentorship and conservation job-readiness internships for at least 32 at-risk and minority youths from predominately Native American backgrounds. This youth initiative will also engage participants in a tangible, meaningful, hands-on conservation project: the restoration of the Hat Creek Wild Trout Area in North-east California. The HCYI will bring local minority youth into a collaborative, high profile and dynamic stream restoration effort and will connect youth with government officials, researchers, tribal members, and NGO's, who can provide vitally needed education and mentoring. Over two work summers, interns will have an opportunity to implement projects such as stream-bank restoration, riparian planting, trail construction and scientific monitoring. In addition, this project will extend opportunities for involvement of 240 minority high school youth in the region to participate in a Career Night Symposium and 'Fly-Fishing and Natural Resource Job-Skills Clinic'. This project builds upon two of the largest regional conservation efforts (Hat Creek Parkway Program and the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program) and has garnered over-whelming support from every key-regulatory agency, private business (PG&E), and local stakeholder group in the area.

Project Location: The project will take place in Hat Creek in northern California's Shasta County which was the first designated Wild Trout Area in California and is habitat for native redband trout.

San Luis Valley Engaging Youth in Conservation (CO)	BLM Funds:	\$47,000
Southwest Conservation Corps	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$25,000
NFWF Project #: 38201	Matching Funds:	\$162,652
	Total Project Funds:	\$234,652

Project Description: The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) will engage 70 local youth from Colorado's San Luis Valley in 12 weeks of service work and educational activities in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The "San Luis Valley Engaging Youth in Conservation" program will expand the SCC Los Valles Region's current youth programs by providing more opportunities for 14-20 year old participants to explore career paths in natural resource conservation while completing high-priority projects on public lands in their own communities. The program will combine hands-on field work, outdoor living, experiential education activities, and career preparation resources during four-week summer sessions in 2013 and 2014. Crews of six members and two adult crew leaders will complete four-week sessions, spending 32 hours per week (Mon-Thurs) on service projects and 8 hours per week (each Friday) on education. SCC will partner with the BLM to complete service work at the Kerber Creek Restoration Project (near Bonanza, CO) and the Blanca Wetlands (near Alamosa, CO). Projects will include: stream bank stabilization; erosion control; re-vegetation/transplanting/seeding; invasive species removal; fence repair and removal; water quality monitoring; and habitat surveys.

Project Location: Projects will be completed throughout Colorado's San Luis Valley in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management at Kerber Creek (near Bonanza, CO) and the Blanca Wetlands (near Alamosa, CO).

The California Public Lands Education Project (CA)	BLM Funds:	\$50,000
Bureau of Land Management	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$25,000
NFWF Project #: 38250	Matching Funds:	\$80,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$155,000

Project Description: The Public Lands Education Project is a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and community-based organizations to educate and employ under-served youth from inner city communities that are diverse in race, gender, and ethnicity. The project will build a bridge from diverse communities to public lands through a three-day LEARN AND EARN program for 48 youth who will earn a stipend while learning how to monitor and restore natural habitats significant to California's landscape legacy on BLM lands in or near the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument. After participating in LEARN AND EARN, 20 youth will be invited to participate in a longer YOUTH CORPS experience to develop skills in natural resources management and further prepare for environmental careers. The project is staffed by trained leaders with cultural and ethnic backgrounds similar to youth participants. Project outcomes include: (1) strengthening and expanding partnerships with Federal agencies to better serve hard-to-reach youth; (2) incorporating diverse skills into natural resources management; (3) mentoring economically disadvantaged youth so they acquire skills needed to apply for positions in natural resources; and (4) ensuring that youth and their families learn about cultural and environmental literacy, physical challenge, and stewardship. Federal partners include the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Community-based partners are Outward Bound Adventures, and the Urban Conservation Corps.

Project Location: The project will take place in the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, near the city of Palm Springs, California on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service.

Portland Urban Youth Corps (OR)	BLM Funds:	\$28,500
Northwest Youth Corps	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$50,000
NFWF Project #: 38255	Matching Funds:	\$99,480
	Total Project Funds:	\$177,980

Project Description: The Portland Urban Youth Corps (PUYC) is a partnership between the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC), the Bureau of Land Management Salem District (BLM), Wolftree, Inc., and the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. The PUYC will build upon NYC's existing conservation programs to expand opportunity for 40 Portland, Oregon teens, ages 16-19, who will be minority, urban, and at-risk. This project will support crews as they carry out a total of 7,650 hours of paid conservation projects through a five week program. Activities will improve habitat for endangered Steelhead Trout, Fall Chinook, and Coho Salmon, and maintain and create recreational trails in the BLM's Sandy River Basin. Other partners include the Port of Portland and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Conservation outcomes include: (1) hand removal of at least 70 acres of invasive plant species; (2) construction of 10,000 feet of riparian fence; (3) restoration or cleanup of up to ten linear miles of stream bank; and (4) construction of three miles and maintenance of ten miles of non-motorized trails. Program participants will also benefit from a total of 1,400 contact hours of field education and mentorship that takes place after work days, supplemented by talks by diverse resource management professionals, for which youth can earn high school credit. Youth will also lead at least 150 volunteers on service projects to benefit public lands.

Project Location: The project will take place on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or adjacent properties in and around the Sandy River Basin in Oregon.

Escalante Watershed Restoration, Woody Invasive Control (UT)	BLM Funds:	\$95,000
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners	Matching Funds:	\$175,012
NFWF Project #: 38287	Total Project Funds:	\$270,012

Project Description: The Grand Staircase Escalante Partners will hire 64 youth conservation corps members (ages 18-26) to assist in removing woody invasive species (primarily Russian olive) from 20 acres on Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and 25 acres on private lands directly upstream from Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. This project is part of a watershed wide restoration effort to increase the number of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain communities in the watershed while reducing those dominated by woody invasive species. As part of the restoration effort, conservation job opportunities for youth are being created on public and private lands which expose young people to the natural world and career opportunities available in conservation. Removing Russian olive will benefit native fish, bird, and other wildlife species in the watershed and will allow for an increase of native plant populations, creating wildlife habitat for migrating birds, mammals, and other wildlife. By decreasing the seed source of Russian olive upstream in the watershed, the potential for new saplings in the lower watershed will be reduced. Participating crew members and leaders will learn hands-on restoration skills as well as significant intangible life skills such as team building, communication, punctuality, attendance, conflict resolution, diversity, and problem solving.

Project Location: The project will take place in Garfield County, Escalante Watershed, Southern Utah, within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, and on adjacent private land, managed by Boulder Community Alliance.

Youth Restoration of Forests and Rangelands in Nevada (NV)	BLM Funds:	\$100,000
Bureau of Land Management	Matching Funds:	\$210,472
NFWF Project #: 38322	Total Project Funds:	\$310,472

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will employ a 10-person Nevada Conservation Corp (NCC) crew to accomplish approximately 850 acres of sage-grouse habitat enhancement and forest and woodland restoration projects on Carson City District (CCD) BLM lands. The project will start in the summer of 2013 and conclude in the fall of 2014. The CCD currently partners with the NCC on several projects that have been implemented in the last 5 years. This project expands on this already successful partnership by recruiting local Native American youth to become NCC crew members. The NCC is sponsored by the Great Basin Institute (GBI) and this project fits into their mission of education, research, and service. GBI will actively recruit and train local Native American youth to accomplish land management activities in addition to utilizing current NCC members on BLM projects.

In addition to learning the skills needed for accomplishing on-the-ground work, this project will utilize training, seminars, outreach activities, and shadowing of BLM specialists. GBI has an active education program and receives funding for on-the-job training and seminars. The CCD will allow NCC crew members to shadow a variety of disciplines during the execution of their duties. NCC crew members will also select a special topic of interest and conduct verbal or written outreach on this topic. The goal of this project is for NCC crew members to be inspired and trained to a level that would allow them to further their career in natural resources

Project Location: The project will take place on Carson City District BLM lands near Carson City, Cold Springs, and Hawthorne, Nevada. Restoration will occur in Bi-State and Greater Sage-grouse population management areas.

Celebrate Shorebirds (Celebra las Aves Playeras) (CA, CO, OR,
DC)BLM Funds:
Matching Funds:\$82,600
\$132,940Environment for the Americas, Inc.Total Project Funds:\$215,540NFWF Project #: 38416

Project Description: The Environment for the Americas (EFTA) will engage Latino youth in natural resource careers and conservation activities for a second year through its Celebrate Shorebirds Program, which was supported by an America's Great Outdoors project in 2012/2013, which addressed the challenge agencies face recruiting and retaining underserved audiences. The project also supports agency efforts to increase Latino staff and will involve youth in gathering valuable data on migratory shorebirds in Colorado, California, and Oregon in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Building on its successful implementation in 2012/2013, the project will introduce Latino youth to birds, their migrations, and the conservation issues that threaten them and provide training and mentoring for 8 interns. One intern will work in Boulder as the project liaison for coordination, another will work in Washington, D.C., developing on-line materials, and the remaining 6 will be stationed at field sites learning shorebird monitoring protocols, education and outreach techniques, conducting shorebird population research and data collection, and hosting education programs at host sites. The program will enable the interns to experience diverse career opportunities and interact with agency staff and provide Latino role models who increase awareness of conservation issues and natural resource careers in nearby Latino communities.

Project Location: The project will occur at three coastal sites in California and Oregon and one interior site in Colorado with significant migratory and nesting shorebird populations. Coordination will be in Boulder, CO and collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C..

¡YouthWorks! New Conservationists Youth Crew Project (NM)	BLM Funds:	\$47,350
YouthWorks	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$50,000
NFWF Project #: 38440	Matching Funds:	\$113,825
	Total Project Funds:	\$211,175

Project Description: The ¡YouthWorks! New Conservationists Youth Crew project will expand on 10 years of experience and partner with the Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to create meaningful employment for youth through environmental restoration and conservation activities in three areas at project sites north and south of Santa Fe. The three areas have been designated as high need by the BLM. Project activities will include: (1) fire hazard reduction; (2) invasive species removal; (3) native species planting; (4) kiosk construction; (5) watershed restoration; and (6) fence repair and construction to protect designated areas of public lands threatened by illegal activities such as dumping and off roading. Riparian restoration will also be conducted along the Rio Grande River in the Buckman area and along the Santa Fe River near the La Cieneguilla Petroglyph site. An 8 member crew and project leader, ranging in age from 18 to 24, will be hired and will receive training and mentoring from natural resource professionals that include the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program State Coordinator and other experts. Training will include GIS mapping and orienteering, fire prevention, and erosion control. The activities of the crew will be aimed towards career track development, meaningful

employment, and an in-depth experience regarding the importance of conserving the fragile New Mexican habitats for public use and to preserve lands for generations to come.

Project Location: The New Conservationists Youth Crew Project will take place at the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area and will provide support for Bureau of Land Management staff on two other project areas, the Buckman Recreation Area and La Cieneguilla.

Engaging Young Adults in Native Plant Propagation (NW OR)	BLM Funds:	\$83,930
Tillamook Bay Watershed Council	Matching Funds:	\$180,000
NFWF Project #: 38488	Total Project Funds:	\$263,930

Project Description: The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) will engage young adults from the Columbia River Youth Corps, Tillamook Options Program School, Nestucca High School, and the Oregon Youth Authority in the propagation of native plants to restore riparian, wetland, and upland landscapes in northwest Oregon. NORP, which is coordinated by the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, oversees the propagation of over 75,000 native plants annually for landscape-scale watershed restoration projects implemented by its partners on private lands adjacent to or administered by the Salem District Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. The service area of NORP covers approximately 4,000 square miles within five counties (Tillamook, Columbia, Washington, Clatsop, and Yamhill). Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, watershed councils, land trusts, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, Soil and Water Conservation Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local schools, and communities. The NORP coordinator will hire and direct the work of over 60 young adults employed through this project. Students will be involved in all aspects of native plant propagation and restoration and will learn valuable on-the-job skills for a career in landscape restoration. By participating in handson, community-based conservation work, students will also gain important life skills allowing them to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Project Location: The project will take place on private lands adjacent to or on lands administered by the Salem District Bureau of Land Management in Tillamook, Columbia, Washington, Clatsop, and Yamhill Counties of northwest Oregon.

64 Degrees North Restoration (AK)	BLM Funds:	\$19,850
Salcha Delta Soil and Water Conservation District	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$25,000
NFWF Project #: 38529	Matching Funds:	\$50,000
	Total Project Funds:	\$94,850

Project Description: The Salcha Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, housed in Delta Junction Alaska, is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other Federal agencies in environmental stewardship programs to connect the land and people through technical guidance resource management assistance. This project, 64 Degrees North Restoration, will connect youth to the environment by hiring 5 rural Alaskan youth (ranging in age from 14 to 25) and 1 crew leader through an 8 week educational instruction and hands-on conservation program working with BLM field staff and wildlife biologists to develop skills for conservation careers. During the training phase, the youth will receive job-readiness opportunities and hands-on experience in the preservation of native habitats within the interior of Alaska by propagating 1,000 trees and shrubs at a native plant nursery for state and federal reclamation projects. Training will also be provided in the use of Early Detection- Rapid Response methods in mapping and controlling invasive plants along rivers, highways and the agricultural interface. The youth will work with agriculture producers to understand how noxious/invasive species impact production yields and the ecological communities that support wildlife surrounding farms and eradicate

20 acres of Sowthistle, white sweet clover, and toad flax. They will also work at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge to control 10 acres of white sweet clover and prevent its spread to the refuge and with BLM Alaska on restoration projects in the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River Corrior in Ft. Egbert, Eagle, Alaska.

Project Location: This project will take place in interior Alaska, City of Delta Junction, Alaska. The program will be based from the native plant nursery located on Ft. Greely 5 miles south of Delta Junction.

Youth & Wildlife Conservation at Las Cienegas Grasslands (AZ)	BLM Funds:	\$79,400
Arizona Antelope Foundation	Matching Funds:	\$95,000
NFWF Project #: 38570	Total Project Funds:	\$174,400

Project Description: The Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) will expand an existing youth education opportunity focused on Black-tailed prairie dog (BTPD) reintroductions and the AAF's Southeast Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative in the summer season of 2013. The AAF will partner with the Southwestern Conservation Corps to hire and equip 8 youth to accomplish the necessary pronghorn fence modifications on Las Cienegas and to support intensive observation and mark and recapture efforts on 4 newly BTPD established colonies. The youth will work for 12 weeks in the summer spending half of their time on the BTPD project and half on the pronghorn fence modification project. When doing fence modifications and removals within pronghorn habitat, the youth will be supervised by the AAF's Field Manager. The Arizona Game and Fish prairie dog biologist will supervise the youth when carrying out continuous monitoring of the 4 prairie dog colonies, including daylight counts, capture, and re-marking of the animals. These activities will be guided and completed in concert with southeast Arizona pronghorn plans, the Sonoran Conservation Plan, and the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Project Location: The principal project location will be on Bureau of Land Management's Las Cienegas Natural Area Grasslands, 40 miles southeast of Tucson, in Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties.

BOR SPONSORED PROJECTS

San Joaquin River Weed Management and Jobs Creation Project	BOR Funds:	\$72,313
(CA)	Wells Fargo Funds:	\$25,000
River Partners	Matching Funds:	\$25,000
NFWF Project #: 38491	Total Project Funds:	\$122,313

Project Description: River Partners will work with the San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps (SJRCC) to employ local youth ages 18 to 25 in invasive species mapping, monitoring and management along the San Joaquin River in Merced County. This is an area which reports high unemployment and poverty rates, as well as high rates of childhood obesity and asthma – maladies that have been linked to lack of access and exposure to the outdoors. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) seeks to restore a self-sustaining population of native fish to the highly degraded San Joaquin River. This project will: (1) expose young adults to green industry jobs; (2) provide on-the-job training related to GPS/GIS work, navigation, plant identification and treatment methods; and (3) also pay them for their efforts in this economically depressed area. The SJRRP will provide near term and long-term jobs in river management for decades to come, thus river restoration is a viable sector for job growth.

Since 2010, River Partners has worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to plan and map invasive plants, and to attain the necessary permits to work in the sensitive resource zone around the San Joaquin River. River Partners has secured land access agreements covering over 4,000 acres of land and is poised to undertaken large-scale invasive management activities in early 2013. The SJRCC and River Partners have partnered on large-scale river restoration projects in this region, and have a proven track record of project outcomes.

Project Location: The project area includes floodplain along the San Joaquin River in Merced County on lands within the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and Great Valley Grasslands State Park.

Bureau of Reclamation and NV Conservation Corps	BOR Funds:	\$19,600
Collaborative (NV)	Matching Funds:	\$4,900
Great Basin Institute	Total Project Funds:	\$24,500
NFWF Project #: 38518		

Project Description: The Great Basin Institute, in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC), will provide youth crews to support conservation projects at sites along the Colorado River between Boulder City and Laughlin. The goal is to continue habitat restoration work at the Big Bend of the Colorado Conservation Site by targeting tamarisk and other invasive plants for eradication, and to continue trail construction and maintenance at the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trail project near Laughlin, Nevada. The NCC will provide opportunities for 10 youth to work and learn alongside conservation professionals on meaningful projects that benefit not only the local ecosystem, but the public as well. Learning experiences for the youth will include guest speakers on topics such as trail and park design, Colorado River habitat conservation, and wildlife monitoring.

Project Location: The majority of the project will take place near the city of Laughlin, NV.

Snook's Bottom Riparian Restoration Project (CO)	BOR Funds:	\$15,000
Mesa Youth Services, Inc.	Matching Funds:	\$5,000
NFWF Project #: 38521	Total Project Funds:	\$20,000

Project Description: This project will be carried out through a Cooperative Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to employ youth crews to assist in habitat revegetation efforts. This project will employ 8 youth to transplant wetland plants from other wetlands in the area to vegetate the constructed wetlands, cut and plant willow and cottonwood poles, and install additional native riparian plants that will be purchased as nursery stock. BOR staff will provide project oversite and provide all necessary equipment and supplies. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will serve as the day-to-day manager at Horsethief Canyon Wildlife Area and direct the youth crew. WCCC will be responsible for the training, supervision, and employment of the youth crew. Re-vegetated areas will be monitored for the possible return of invasives that would threaten the success of the restoration.

Project Location: The project will take place in the Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area near Fruita, Colorado.

Habitat-fish status in NE Oregon ESA Chinook populations (OR)	BOR Funds:	\$75,587
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Matching Funds:	\$72,280
NFWF Project #: 38542	Total Project Funds:	\$147,867

Project Description: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will enhance an existing program in the Upper Grande Ronde Basin with monitoring of restoration activities in Catherine Creek and reference sites in the Minam River. Wild populations of salmon and steelhead throughout the Pacific Northwest have declined to levels posing serous risk of extinction. Populations of Chinook and steelhead in the Grande Ronde Basin are now federally listed as threatened. Scientists from state, federal, and tribal agencies are monitoring salmonid adult and juvenile abundance, life stage specific survival and habitat conditions to assess status and evaluate responses to recovery actions. ODFW will employ 3 student interns and a project leader to conduct fish and habitat surveys using a standard protocol for physical, biological and geomorphic habitat data collection. This project will expand habitat surveys by employing and supervising a crew of five student interns to implement pre-and post- restoration monitoring surveys throughout the summer of 2013 on Catherine Creek and establish monitoring sites in the Minam River watershed as reference conditions to increase understanding of the limiting factors for fish recovery.

Project Location: The project will take place at Catherine Creek and Minam River, tributaries to the upper Grande Ronde River in the Blue Mountains of Northeast Oregon.

Walker River Youth Conservation Initiative (NV)	BOR Funds:	\$50,000
Mason Valley Conservation District	Matching Funds:	\$56,655
NFWF Project #: 38761	Total Project Funds:	\$106,655

Project Description: The Mason Valley Conservation District will partner with the Rite of Passage School in Mason Valley to provide opportunities for at-risk youth attending the school to participate in natural resource education while simultaneously gaining employment in these fields. Mason Valley Conservation District (MVCD) will employ a part-time educator to coordinate classroom lectures on conservation topics in the Walker River Basin such as noxious weeds, abandoned farmland restoration, hydrology, ecology, geology, wildlife, and native plants. The educator will give weekly presentations for a period of 7-9 months and provide job shadowing with resource professionals at the school and field sites. This project will provide the opportunity for 8-10 youth who successfully complete classroom activities and job shadowing tasks to be employed on actual Conservation District projects to perform pertinent restoration tasks. These may include noxious weed management, planting native species, irrigation system installation and/or maintenance, inventory data collection, and general monitoring. This project offers the opportunity to create a successful outcome for youth who are not in the mainstream track by developing pro-social behaviors and giving back to the communities they may have harmed through delinquent acts. The project activities specifically relate to NFWF goals in the Walker River Basin for restoration of retired farmland as a result of water acquisitions.

Project Location: The project will take place in Walker Lake Basin, Nevada.

WELLS FARGO SPONSORED PROJECT

Coastal Habitat Restoration at Dockweiler State Beach (CA) Wells Fargo Funds:

Los Angeles Conservation CorpsMatching Funds:\$74,000NFWF Project #: 377737Total Project Funds:\$124,000

\$50,000

Project Description: The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Corps) will continue to implement the ongoing restoration plan for Coastal Habitat Restoration at Dockweiler State Beach by restoring native dune and bluff habitats and creating conditions to promote the return of native plants and wildlife, including the endangered native El Segundo blue butterfly. Through this project, 16 young adults will be employed as corpsmembers to participate in the Corps' SEA Lab (Science Education Adventure Laboratory) paid job training program at the site and complete the habitat restoration work to create coastal bluff stability and viable breeding ground for the butterfly. Corpsmembers will install temporary irrigation, fencing, and informational signage to help maintain and protect seedlings and plants. SEA Lab staff will also develop current and new partnerships with schools, community groups, corporations, government agencies and local residents to recruit volunteers for monthly events and to establish local community buy-in to ensure long-term sustainability. Volunteers will also work in our native plant nursery, install seedlings during habitat restoration projects, and maintain the restored ecosystem. Projected outcomes of this project include: (1) 1.5 acres of native habitat restored by removing the invasive iceplant; (2) 8,000 native plants will be propagated from local seed stock; (3) 200 volunteers will be engaged in habitat restoration; (4) 10 hands-on volunteer events will be hosted for more than 200 volunteers on the importance of restoring and maintaining native coastal habitat; and (5) 40 volunteers provided instruction on the advantages of using California native plants around their homes.

Project Location: The project will take place at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey, CA.

About the Program Partners



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores our nations native wildlife, species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing conservation needs and matches those investments with private funds. **www.nfwf.org**



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports conservation efforts that benefit public land ecosystems. BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM is responsible for the management and conservation of resources on 258 million surface acres, as well as 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. www.blm.gov



The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. **www.usbr.gov**